

**THE PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Francestown Planning Board will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on Tuesday, January 20th, 2015, 7 PM at the Town Office meeting room, 27 Main Street, at which the Board will consider the following amendment to the Francestown Zoning Ordinance:

Amendment to Article IV: Signs

If approved, this amendment will: Provide a definition of signs; increase the duration of display of temporary signs from 48 hours to 14 days; increase the total number of commercial signs allowed per property from two to three; set lighting requirements for signs; make other adjustments as to the type, size, and duration of permitted signs.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for public inspection at the Town Offices, Post Office and the Public Library

If not resolved at this meeting, the matter may be continued to subsequent meetings without further published notice. Interested parties are invited to attend.

Francestown Planning Board
Sarah Hibbard Pyle, Chair

PROPOSED AMMENDMENT TO THE FRANCESTOWN ZONING ORDINANCE
To be considered at a Public Hearing on January 20th, 2015 (see posted notice)

ARTICLE IV: SIGNS

4.1. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to protect and improve community appearance and aesthetics and to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens. This section recognizes that any business needs identification and the public needs direction. This section aims to encourage the use of signs that are compatible with community character, are readable and clear, are not distracting to vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and are maintained in good repair.

4.2. Definition

Objects that convey a message for the purposes of advertising or identifying any establishment, event, or product are to be considered signs and are subject to these regulations.

4.3. General Provisions

Signs shall be permitted as provided below or in other portions of this ordinance, but all signs shall be subject to the following regulations:

- a) All signs shall be maintained in good condition and in good repair at all times. Any sign or sign structure which is or becomes in disrepair in the opinion of the Selectmen shall, upon order of the Selectmen, be repaired or removed by the owner within thirty (30) days of written notice.
- b) No sign shall be placed in a manner that will endanger traffic by obscuring the view, by confusion with official signs, by glare or by flashing light, or by any other means.
- c) No sign shall project beyond the property line or extend over or into a right of way unless a variance is granted by the Board of Adjustment. No such variance shall be granted unless the Board of Adjustment finds that the proposed projecting sign will not interfere with traffic or pedestrian travel and will be in keeping with the character of the surrounding neighborhood
- d) Signs shall be lighted only by directed light external to the sign. Light sources to illuminate signs shall be fully shielded, and must meet all requirements of the Outdoor Lighting Regulations (3.15). Signs using neon, tubular gas, moving or flashing or similar lights, or EMC (Electronic Message Center) lighting shall not be permitted in any district.
- e) No signs shall be affixed to any utility owned pole or traffic sign.
- f) Two-sided signs shall be considered a single unit, and only one surface shall be considered in determining the area.

- g) Off-premises signs (a sign that pertains to business, industry or activity that is not located at the premises on which the sign is located) shall not be permitted except as provided for in 4.6 (Directional Signs).
- h) Official town, state or federal signs shall be exempt from these regulations.
- i) Non-commercial signs on private property are permitted.

4.4 On-Premise Commercial Signs

- a) On-premise signs identifying the business of the owner or operator upon the premise wherein the business is operated shall be limited to no more than twelve square feet in size. If more than one sign is attached to a single signpost, the cumulative total of signs shall not exceed twelve square feet.
- b) No more than three on-premise signs may be displayed advertising the business of the owner or operator upon the premise wherein the business is operated.
- c) In home or home-based business signs as allowed for in 3.9.1 and 3.9.2.
- d) Road side farm stand signs are permitted as provided in section 3.16

4.5 Temporary Signs

- a) Temporary commercial signs for contractors, tradesmen, and Realtors are allowed at the location where work is being performed for the duration of the project they represent. Such signs shall not exceed six square feet and shall be removed within fourteen (14) days of the completion of the project.
- b) Temporary signs, such as those announcing a single event or activity, occurring either on or off premises (other than those covered in 4.5-a) are allowed with express permission of the property owner, if under six square feet in size and posted for a period not to exceed twenty-one (21) days in a 365 day period. Temporary signs no greater than 100 square feet may be allowed with written permission from the Board of Selectmen.
- c) Political Signs: shall be allowed in accordance with state legislation (RSA 664:17).

4.6 Directional Signs.

- a) The Selectmen shall determine location, standard sign specifications, and fees. Signs shall indicate the name of the business and necessary directional information only.
- b) Where the Selectmen determine that the public convenience and necessity so require, directional signs to businesses and other facilities within the town may be placed in the town right of way.
- c) There shall be no more than one signpost for any location.